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1982 reports

Southern Baptists record across-the-board gains

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—An all-time high enrollment for Sunday School and a 7.5 percent increase in church training enrollment led the way in across-the-board gains in Southern Baptist Convention programs for 1982.

Baptisms, which were projected in December to be just under the 400,000 mark, instead recorded a gain of 1.5 percent, or 5,946, to 411,554. The 1981 baptisms totaled 405,608.

Release of final statistical information by the research services department at the Baptist Sunday School Board shows gains for all 10 of the reporting areas traditionally checked to

gauge ministry efforts of the denomination.

This year's final total for Sunday School enrollment in Southern Baptist churches, 7,678,604, is the highest in history for the Bible study program, topping the previous high of 7,671,165 recorded in 1964. The church training gain represents an increase of more than 135,000, bringing the total to 1,949,348.

The number of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention went up 0.6 percent to a new total of 36,301, a gain of 223 over 1981.

Membership in the denomination increased during 1982 by 1.5 percent, or 208,672, which pushed the total to

13,998,252. Southern Baptists, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., likely will surpass the 14 million mark during 1983.

Total receipts for the convention were more than \$3 billion for the first time, reaching \$3.1 billion, which is a 12 percent, or \$334.8 million, increase over last year. Mission expenditures increased by more than 10 percent to almost \$500 million.

Woman's Missionary Union enrollment showed a gain of 3.1 percent, or 34,805, to almost 1.15 million.

Enrollment for Brotherhood increased by 3.3 percent, or 16,742, to reach 529,642.

Church music enrollment increased by 2.8 percent, or 43,782, in 1982 to reach a new high of 1.63 million. Church music has not had a decline in enrollment since 1965.

The Sunday School gain of more than 150,000 was slightly more than projected. The 2.0 percent increase car-

ried the denomination's largest church program to the record high enrollment after three years of increases.

For church training, the 7.5 percent, or 135,169, increase marks the third consecutive enrollment increase.

Martin Bradley, secretary of the research services department, reported that 35,215 churches mailed Uniform Church Letters for use in checking the denomination's numerical progress.

Other information included on the letter shows Southern Baptists now have 1,211 associations, up by two from 1981. The number of state conventions remains at 34.

Also, 30,260 churches reported at least one baptism, up 0.9 percent over 1981. The rate of baptisms in the SBC is equal to 5.4 persons baptized in a one-year period for every 100 Sunday School members.

(Lowry writes news for the Sunday School Board.)

State reports rises in all but baptisms

Mississippi Baptists reporting through the Uniform Church Letters marked gains in 1982 over 1981 in all reporting areas except total baptisms. The 1982 baptisms totaled 15,916, against 16,238 in 1981, a drop of 322, or two percent.

Other reporting areas pulled up, though. Total membership rose for Baptist churches in Mississippi by .9

percent or 5,670. Memberships rose from 618,492 in 1981 to 624,162 in 1982.

Brotherhood enrollment topped the percentage gains at 8.3 percent over 1981 figures, with 2,203 new members, up from 26,425 to 28,628.

The second highest church program enrollment gain was in Woman's Missionary Union with 6.5 percent, moving WMU enrollment up 3,435 to 56,545 from the 1981 figure of 53,110.

Church Training in Mississippi gained 2.5 percent in enrollment over 1981's 129,410 to total 132,614, or a 3,204 jump.

Church music enrollment also moved up by 1.6 percent, or 1,519 to 95,085 in 1982 over the 1981 figure of 93,566.

And Sunday School enrollment rose 7 percent or 2,278 to reach 342,897 in 1982 over the 1981 total of 340,619.

Record giving

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,335,282 to the Cooperative Program in February, surpassing the previous record month of giving which was \$1,326,332, set in December 1981.

Prayerline will give requests

ATLANTA, Ga.—March 1, 1983, is marking the beginning of a new prayer venture that could result in at least 15,000 new Southern Baptist churches by the year 2000.

Through toll-free numbers, Southern Baptists may get current, specific prayer requests that directly relate to starting new work.

Called the Intercessory Prayerline, the toll-free numbers will be in operation through May 30.

The Home Mission Board staff asks that at least 10,000 Southern Baptists commit themselves to pray for new work and for 15,000 new churches by the turn of the century so that Bold Mission Thrust goals will be met.

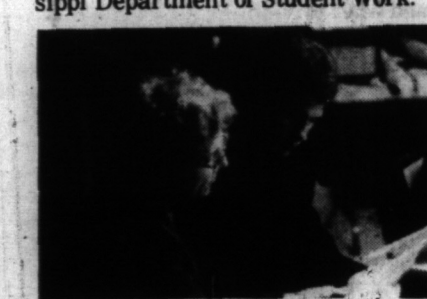
Numbers to call are:
1-800-554-PRAY
1-800-282-SEEK (Georgia residents only).

Mississippi BSU appoints 65

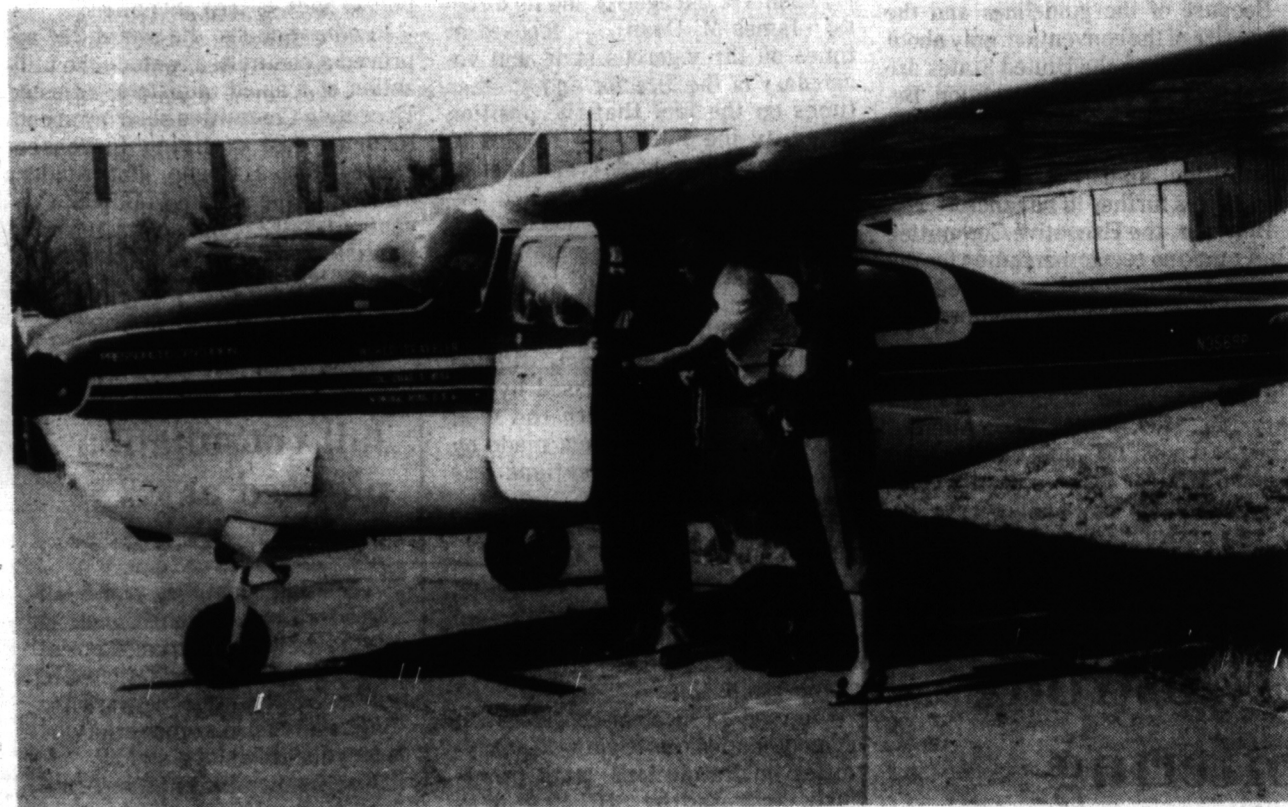
The Mississippi Baptist Student Union State Student Missions Committee met at Camp Garaywa Feb. 8-12, to interview 70 applicants for the student missions program. The interviews resulted in the appointing of 64 students to serve as 1983 summer missionaries and one student to serve as a fall semester missionary.

The 64 summer missionaries include ten students who will serve on foreign fields and 54 who will serve in 28 states in the U.S. The program is financed by gifts from college and university students involved in the 22 Baptist Students Unions in Mississippi. The financial goal for the 1983 program is \$65,000.

The committee members and their schools were Martha Shelton, Ole Miss, chairman; Freda McCarty, Jones Junior College; Jeff Ginn, Blue Mountain; Robin Enete, Mississippi College; Bobby Blass, University of Southern Mississippi; Kathryn Bearden, BSU director, Baptist Medical Center; Billy Bowie, BSU director, Northwest Junior College; Anne Harrington, state BSU president; and Lloyd Luncford, associate, Mississippi Department of Student Work.



BSU State Student Missions Committee members Kathryn Bearden and Jeff Ginn look over the application of a prospective student missionary.



Missionary Cordell Akin, left, a pilot, checks out the Cessna 210 aircraft given to the Foreign Mission Board by Charles Hull, center, of Winona. Akin and his wife are missionaries to Tanzania. Mrs. Hull is at right.

Wrapup

SBC Executive Committee okays building, budget, giving report

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In a marathon two-day session, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee endorsed a new building program, approved a \$125 million budget and approved a study of the unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program.

The committee also selected sites for the 1989 and 1990 annual meetings, approved a \$31,740,000 capital needs budget for 1984-88, declined to convene a special session of the 67-member committee to discuss tensions in the 14 million member denomination and commented on the work of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Along the way, members also approved modifications in the SBC constitution and bylaws.

All of the recommendations will be referred to the 1983 annual meeting of the SBC in Pittsburgh, June 14-16, for final action.

The proposed seven-story building would house the Executive Committee, Seminary External Education Di-

vision, Historical Commission, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Stewardship Commission and Southern Baptist Foundation. Messengers in Pittsburgh will be asked to approve an \$8 million capital funds proposal to construct the building.

The \$125 million Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for 1983-84, which gives 70 percent to home and foreign mission, exceeds the current budget by \$19 million. It includes a basic operating budget of \$114,500,000, a capital needs section of \$3,340,385, and a two-phase challenge portion of \$7,159,615.

A proposal to allow churches to exclude some SBC agencies from their contributions and still have their gifts counted as Cooperative Program donations was deleted from the report of the Cooperative Program Study Committee. The group's proposal to begin a 15-year plan to increase giving to SBC churches to \$20 billion a year by 2000 AD was adopted unanimously.

In an action which drew the most debate, members voted 32-20 to re-

commend Las Vegas, Nev., as the site for the 1989 SBC annual meeting. In contrast, members approved with little discussion and almost no opposition New Orleans as the recommended site for 1990.

The 1984-88 capital needs budget, nearly double the current, six-year capital needs budget, provides funds to 14 of the 20 SBC agencies, some of which have never before received capital needs funding. It provides funding for the new SBC building, as well as special projects for the six seminaries, Home Mission Board and Radio and Television Commission.

Committee members "respectfully declined" to convene a special session of the Executive Committee to discuss tensions in the SBC, despite requests from five persons and resolutions from three state conventions, Virginia, Alabama, and Georgia.

The action also commended SBC President James T. Draper Jr. of Eules, Tex., "other convention officers, interested and concerned pastors and laypersons for their leadership in

(Continued on page 2)

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GOD'S CHALLENGE FOR OUR LAND

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 6-13, 1983

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$25,000,000

Man places airplane in mission service

By Don McGregor

Charles Hull, a deacon in First Church, Winona, gave away a part of himself when he gave his airplane to the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

But then, this plane has been used as a missions vehicle almost since Hull first purchased it in 1978. In December of that year he took off alone in the plane on a round-the-world flight to visit mission fields. During the trip he visited missionary Cordell Akin in Kenya. On Feb. 20 Akin visited Hull in Winona to pick up the plane for the Foreign Mission Board.

The plane is a Cessna 210 single-engine aircraft with a pressurized cabin. It flies at about 190 miles an hour. While Hull was visiting Akin in Kenya he observed how much such a plane could mean to the work in East Africa.

Akin is a missionary to Tanzania, but he flies to Nairobi, Kenya, often for supplies. Akin has been flying a Cessna 210 in Tanzania but without the pressurized cabin. Having a pressurized cabin means being able to fly at somewhat higher altitudes where the ride is smoother. Both pilot Akin and pilot Hull say it is much less tiring.

That is what Akin needs. During the four-year term completed just before his present furlough Akin put in 3,000

hours in the air. That is the equivalent of 17 trips around the world, he said. He added that the time taken for such trips amounted to two years of his four-year term.

Akin is both a pilot and a pastor. He has been a pastor in East Africa for 15 years, eight years of that time ministering to congregations in the Swahili language. Now he is pastor of an international English-language church.

He began his aviation ministry in 1978, flying a Cessna 185. Later that plane was sold, there were some special gifts, and \$42,000 of Lottie Moon money was put with the fund to purchase the Cessna 210 that is now being used. Akin told the Baptist Record that he had been wanting to expand the aviation ministry, and the addition of the second Cessna 210 will allow this to be done. Among other purposes the aviation ministry is used to transport medical supplies and for the transportation of personnel. The roads are not the best, and there are few bridges across the rivers; so transportation by plane means saving a great deal of time.

About six weeks ago Hull decided to give his plane to the missions endeavor. It was done in a ceremony beginning with worship services at First Baptist Church. Hull and the writer

(Continued on page 2)

Annie Armstrong offering seeks \$25 million in '83

BIRMINGHAM, AL.—The \$25 million Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is allocated into three major categories: missionary and field ministries, special projects, and advance in critical areas.

The largest allocation, \$16.2 million, goes to missionary and field ministries.

Eight areas of work fall under this category. They are evangelism projects, church extension, Christian social ministries, language missions, interfaith witness, black church relations, chaplaincy ministries, and associational missions.

Evangelism projects, allotted \$1,230,000, include funding for state evangelism secretaries and evangelism projects in states with newer Southern Baptist work. This money will also be used to train laypersons and youth in witnessing. It will also go toward crusades in metropolitan areas.

An amount of \$2,450,000 has been allocated to Christian social ministries. This will go to support missionary personnel in Baptists centers, week-day ministries, youth and family services, literacy missions, and disaster relief. It will also provide ministry to the blind and to seasonal farm workers. Some funds will be used for conferences.

Language missions, which employs the largest number of missions personnel, will receive an allocation of \$5.3 million. This will go to support personnel who work with ethnic groups in America. It will also fund work with internationals, as well as literature, radio, and television programs geared to ethnic people. Some of it will go for immigrant and refugee conferences.

Interfaith witness works to educate Southern Baptists about cults and the beliefs of other religious groups. A sum of \$288,000 has been allocated to

support interfaith witness personnel, and to pay expenses of conferences and printed materials.

Black church relations has an allocation of \$818,000. Funds will go to support missions personnel, youth workers, campus ministries, camps and assemblies, and special projects and conferences.

Chaplaincy ministries has received an allocation of \$164,000. This will go toward providing orientation and services for Southern Baptist chaplains who serve in the military, hospitals, prisons, and industrial organizations.

Church extension begins new

(Continued on page 2)

Greene named church planter

ATLANTA—Rick Greene, former pastor of Bala Chitto Baptist Church in Magnolia, Fla. Formerly, he was be-

havioral science supervisor for Graniteville Company in Graniteville, S.C.

Mrs. Greene is a certified dental assistant at Louisiana State University School of Dentistry in New Orleans.

He holds degrees from Georgia Southern College in Statesboro and New Orleans Seminary. She is a graduate of Augusta Area Technical School in Georgia.



Greene

Exclusion clause dropped from study committee report

By Craig Bird
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A plan to allow churches to "exclude certain causes" and still have their gifts considered Cooperative Program contributions has been scuttled less than a month after being suggested.

In late January the Cooperative Program Study Committee issued a lengthy recommendation which included: "that Cooperative Program gifts from churches which by church action elect to exclude certain

budgeted causes from their undesigned gifts be considered by the Southern Baptist Convention as Cooperative Program funds."

But when the report was presented to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention at its February meeting, that paragraph was withdrawn.

The vast majority of the study remained unchanged including a proposal to increase giving to Southern Baptist churches to \$20 billion and the

SBC Cooperative Program receipts to \$1.25 billion per year by 2000 AD; seek to allocate 75 percent of the Cooperative Program funds to the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board; and lead each Southern Baptist, each church, and each state convention to increase giving to missions.

Joe Ingram, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and a member of the study group, explained the rationale behind the group's decision to delete. "A part of the plan was to present our findings to the state executive directors for their input," he said.

That input was overwhelmingly negative.

"State executives who have the responsibility for raising the funds which eventually come to the Southern Baptist Convention did not feel this was in the interest of the unity of the Cooperative Program and that in the long run it would be a destructive force in that designations are already the inherent right of every Baptist congregation," Ingram said.

"The Cooperative Program is a budget," Ingram explained. "Designated gifts are designated. Cooperative Program is Cooperative Program—and never the twain shall meet."

There was no effort by any member of the Executive Committee to restore the paragraph. A vote on the entire report was approved on a standing vote. No one remained seated.

The study report and recommendations will be presented to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh next June where it will be voted on by messengers from many of the 36,000 churches in the SBC.

(Bird is BP feature editor.)

Resolution-making change may "defuse" situation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Citing the need to "defuse a volatile situation" and avoid "needless controversy," Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. outlined a new resolutions procedure for the 1983 SBC meeting in Pittsburgh.

The changes were included in Draper's address to the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee which also included a report on how he and the convention's two vice presidents had made committee appointments and a challenge for Southern Baptists to "agree Jesus is Lord" whatever the theological differences might be.

Draper is asking that resolutions be sent to Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, for use by the 1983 Resolutions Committee chaired by Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

The resolutions committee will meet in Nashville May 10-11 and again June 11-12 in Pittsburgh just prior to the SBC meeting to discuss resolutions and make research assignments.

Draper also has asked that each SBC agency or institution head and "other interested individuals in leadership positions in the convention" be allowed to meet with the committee before the convention begins.

"Many times resolutions committees have had to pool their ignorance" because complex resolutions had to be dealt with before "there was adequate time to think them out and pray them through," Draper said.

At the Pittsburgh Civic Arena, messengers formally will present their resolutions to a special resolutions desk where they will be assembled for the convention's recording secretary who will make sure they are in proper order. The subject and author of suggested resolutions will be announced by the convention's recording

secretary and not read by the author of the resolution as has been the case in earlier SBC meetings.

Draper's closing statements were a challenge to Baptists to "never be so busy with our own programs, however good they might be, that we don't hear the cry of people in churches like yours and mine who are hurting."

"Whatever your theology might be—whether you and I never agree on something, it doesn't matter to me—just touch people's lives, care about them and tell them that Jesus loves them."

"God doesn't want you to go everywhere—but he does want you to go somewhere. God doesn't want you to witness to everybody—but he does want you to witness to somebody. God doesn't want you to love the whole world in general—but he does want you to love somebody in particular." The standing room only crowd of 300 gave Draper a standing ovation.

Las Vegas proposed as SBC site for 1989

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In a divided action, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has voted to recommend Las Vegas as the site for the 1989 annual meeting.

The Committee, in a 32-20 vote, will recommend to the 1983 SBC in Pittsburgh that the convention go to Las Vegas for the 1989 annual meeting. The decision came after 45 minutes of discussion, which featured the pleas of four state convention executive secretaries that the convention go to the Nevada city.

The discussion also centered on the function and purpose of the annual meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, and ended in a request that the convention arrangements workgroup study site guidelines, including considering whether the convention's main purpose is business or Christian witness.

W. LeRay Fowler, of Houston, chairman of the convention arrangements workgroup, presented the proposal that the convention meet in Las Vegas, noting the decision to recommend the site to the Executive Committee came only after a long discussion and was not a unanimous action.

"Only two cities available for 1989 meet the criteria for a meeting site," he said. The cities, he added, are Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Convention adopted guidelines specify that a convention center have space to seat at least 16,000 persons, adequate exhibit space and 6,500 hotel rooms within walking distance of the meeting hall.

Fowler commented the recommendation was presented in the context of Bold Mission Thrust (the denomination's plan to evangelize every person in the world by 2000 AD) and "for the reason that we could go out there (Las Vegas) to advance the cause of Christ."

Committee members voted without dissent to recommend that the 1990 convention site be New Orleans.

Because of the guidelines and the large size of the convention, only about a dozen cities in the United States are capable of hosting the convention. Because of these factors, Tim Hedquist, convention manager for the Executive Committee, said it is necessary to select sites further in advance.

However, the Executive Committee staff made no recommendation for the 1989 convention, but presented the materials to committee members for decision.

The 1983 convention will be in Pittsburgh. Other sites are Kansas City, Mo., 1984; Dallas, 1985; Atlanta, 1986; St. Louis, 1987, and San Antonio, Texas, 1988.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

Annie Armstrong offering

(Continued from page 1)
churches in unchurched areas. To carry out this effort, \$3,450 has been allocated. This money will go to support pastor-directors, Church Field Assistance, student pastors, and special assistance as well as conferences.

An allocation of \$2.5 million to associational missions will support directors of missions in rural-urban and metropolitan areas. It will help develop associations in newer areas. It will pay expenses for conferences and materials.

The second-largest allocations category goes for special projects. A total of \$2.8 million has been allocated for these. Special projects are short-term projects that are usually not part of the HMB's ongoing work. In most cases, these may involve people, but not career missionaries. And, there is usually a termination point in these projects.

Twenty-eight projects fall into this category. They include funds for such projects as US-2 and summer missionaries, church planter apprentices, and crusades in metropolitan areas.

The third category, advance in critical areas, will be allocated \$6 million. This money will go to fund new home missions work.

The three major categories have priorities. Needs in missionary and field ministries and special projects are designated as high priority. Only after these are met does the remaining money go to fund crucial advance areas.

If the 1983 offering goal is exceeded, the money will go to fund additional short-term projects in missions and evangelism.



Churchmen Handbells

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen are traveling to Argentina and Uruguay, April 17-30 at the invitation of the Southern Baptist Missions in those countries. Out of the 84 members of this group of ministers of music, 24 are making the trip. Previous musical missions trips of the Churchmen were to Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela in 1974, and to Spain, West Germany, and France in 1979. Within the group will be a brass quartet and the Singing Churchmen Handbells Choir. The Churchmen are taking a \$2,800 set of handbells to be given to the Uruguayan Baptist Mission in honor of John and Kathy McNair, missionaries from Mississippi. Churches are donating toward the cost of the handbells. The handbell group is pictured performing at Highland Church, Meridian.

SBC Executive Committee okays building, budget...

(Continued from page 1)

striving to bring peace to the convention."

An effort to delete Draper's name was defeated. John McCall of Louisville, Ky., urged that "personalities be removed" and saying: "The central issue of concern is peace in the SBC and there are huge chasms of differences as to how that peace needs to be achieved. There are significant differences in what he (Draper) believes to be right and what others believe to be right for the SBC. It is wrong to endorse what he has done...when some believe what he has done is not conducive to peace."

Jimmy Jackson of Huntsville, Ala., who said Draper "has done more than anyone else to spearhead this effort (for peace)," urged retention of the president's name because "we would be saying more by deleting than retaining."

The committee received a report from the convention's Public Affairs Committee, which relates to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.

The report, prepared by Russell H. Dilday Jr., chairman, said the Public Affairs Committee expresses "its enthusiastic affirmation of the importance and value of the work" of the BJCPA.

"The (Public Affairs) Committee is also aware of the lively debate and the criticisms of the agency and its director (James M. Dunn)...focused at times on the vigorous style and vocabulary of the director and at other times on the fact that the position taken by the BJCPA in regard to prayer in public schools is inconsistent with a resolution passed in New Orleans (at the 1982 SBC)," it said.

The report added the committee is aware "that while the position taken on prayer in the public schools is not consistent with the recent resolution in New Orleans, it is in keeping with the previous resolutions passed by the convention...and with the vast majority of the statements made by the Baptist state conventions this fall."

The report urged the SBC to "continue to support strongly" the BJCPA.

In actions on the SBC Constitution and bylaws, the committee:

—Postponed consideration of revision or modification of Article III, on membership.

—Agreed to suspend consideration of modifications on Bylaw 22 (Committee on Resolutions) until procedures proposed by SBC President Draper to improve the resolutions procedure are tried at the 1983 annual meeting.

—Adopted further modifications to Bylaw 16 (Election of Board Members, Trustees, Commissioners or Members of Standing Committees) and Bylaw 21 (Committee on Committees).

In Bylaw 16, the committee in September approved modifications calling for persons nominated to serve on committees, boards, commissions and standing committees to "have resided in the state from which they are elected at least one year prior to election" and that the report of the committee on boards be released to Baptist Press "no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting."

The February modification adds a provision that "persons desiring to challenge the report of the committee on boards...are encouraged to publicize the nature of their challenge sufficiently in advance of the annual

meeting of the convention to allow information concerning the challenge to be made available to convention messengers."

In Bylaw 21, the committee in September also adopted the requirements on residency and release on information. The February modification specifies those named would be notified "by the president" who also would release the data to BP.

—Declined to revise Bylaw 31 (Representation from New States and Territories).

Roy W. Owen, executive director of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention, suggested every state convention have representation on the various boards of the convention.

The bylaw specifies that a state convention must have 25,000 members before it qualifies for representation. Currently, 26 of the 34 state conventions qualify for representation.

—Adopted a rewritten Bylaw 8 on Messenger Credentials and Registration.

The bylaw provides messengers shall register in person, using a completed registration card, a letter of a telegram. The procedure is essentially that used in the New Orleans convention. It also provides for a Credentials Committee to "review and rule on any questions which may arise from registration and that any challenge shall be studied by the committee and reported back to the convention."

In other actions, the committee approved a committee to study the utilization of trained ministers, adjusted Executive Committee salaries to conform to cost of living increases, elected Tom J. Logue, state student director of the Arkansas Baptist Convention as SBC representative on the Baptist World Alliance Youth Committee, 1980-85, and adopted an SBC Operating Budget of \$2,362,800 for 1983-84.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

Jail consultation planned at Parchman

The Mississippi Prison and Jail Ministry Consultation, Mar. 11-12 at the new Parchman Baptist Equipping Center, is designed to initiate a statewide network for Baptist ministries among the various jails around the state.

For further information, contact John McBride, director Cooperative Missions department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

Queens' Court to convene

The annual Queens' Court for Mississippi Baptist Acteens will be the weekend of Mar. 4-6, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Features of the weekend meeting include small group conferences with missionaries, a missions challenge by Marti Solomon, Acteens consultant for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and Bible study by Sue McAllister, a conference leader and former minister of youth at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Other speakers include Marjean Patterson, director of Mississippi WMU, Barbara Joiner, Acteens leader from Columbiana, Ala., and a concert by Curt McLemore, a medical student at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

Missionaries in the small group conferences will be Karl and Peggy Wallace, missionaries to Peru; Sarah G. Perkins, missionary to France; and Dennis Roman, recently returned journeyman to Gaza.

Theme of the 1983 Queen's Court will be "Walk in Love." It is designed for Acteens who are involved in Student and have completed one level of Student since they last attended Queen's Court. The retreat is sponsored by Mississippi WMU, D. P. Smith, Acteens consultant. For registration information, contact Miss Smith at 968-3800.

The weekend begins with supper at 6:30 on Friday and concludes after lunch, Sunday morning.

Man places airplane

(Continued from page 1)

both spoke, and then Akin preached. The ceremony was completed when pilot Akin, with his family in the cabin, made a low pass over the air field at Winona as he left for his home in Nashville and waggled the wings in farewell. Pastor Jerry Mixon turned the service over to Hull.

The story of pilot Hull is fascinating. He was a heavy bomber pilot during World War II. He has always loved flying, but he decided he no longer needed such a plane as the pressurized Cessna 210. He figured it as a gift of \$75,000. Until recently he operated a grain elevator in Winona, but he sold that last year and retired. Soon he and his wife, Sue, will be off on a tour of Europe—by commercial jet.

His round-the-world trip in the Cessna was as much adventure as anyone would care to experience. In order to make the distances he had the wings extended so that the wing tanks held more gasoline. Also he had a gasoline tank in the cabin. It was only two inches from his shoulder, he said. He had five of the six seats taken out to make room for the tank and for baggage.

In order to take the shortest route across the Atlantic, he flew to Recife, Brazil, and then to Monrovia, Liberia, on the west coast of Africa. Twice he flew 13 hours non-stop. That was from the Marshall Islands to Hawaii and from Hawaii to San Diego.

Sue met him in Hawaii, but she couldn't fly home with him. There was no room. So she took a commercial jet, and their paths crossed over the Pacific. At that point she was in the cockpit of the jet and talked to him by radio.

Hull arrived back in Winona on March 17, 1979. The story of his trip is told in the Baptist Record in the issue of May 10, 1979.

The missions trip in that plane resulted in the plane being given to missions. Hull would not have been happy with any other outcome.

Stricken evangelist recovering at home

Bill Hartley, the evangelist who became critically ill while leading in a revival recently at Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, left Hinds General Hospital on Sunday, Feb. 20, and returned to his home in Birmingham, Ala. Reports say that he is continuing to show steady improvement, after suffering a retro-pharyngeal hematoma, or burst blood vessel in the throat.

On Sunday, Feb. 27, a week following the revival meeting, there were 11 more public decisions at the church, nine by letter and two for baptism. Kermit D. McGregor, pastor, took up the preaching of the revival when the evangelist became ill.

Tithing and faith

What is faith? Faith is not something you have, it is something you do. "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26).

How does faith relate to tithing? The person who trusts only himself to provide for his needs, because he does not trust God, will say, "I can't tithe. I must keep all I earn for myself. No one is going to look out for me but me."

When Malachi challenged Israel to tithe, he challenged them to test God to see that God keeps his promises. They must learn they can trust God completely. Tithing grows out of faith in God. Tithing is more a matter of the heart than of the pocketbook.

When one says, "I can't tithe," he has first concluded, "I can't trust God." In Matthew 6:24-34, Jesus tells his followers they must make up their minds about whom they will serve—God or money (Mammon). They cannot serve both. God's children are not to live lives filled with anxiety. "But if God so arranges the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will he not much more do so for you, O men of little faith? Do not be anxious then, saying, What shall we eat, ... drink ... wear? For all these things the Gen-

tiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."

Christians who do not live lives of faith in God act like pagans! The writer of Hebrews puts it down where all people live "And without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

"And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight" (Heb. 11:32-34).

Trust God, Tithe. Learn that God is himself the guarantor of his promises. A person who does so will see God's mighty hand at work in his life.

(This series is prepared by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Stewardship office.)



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Curriculum workshops to come in March

A series of Church Training Curriculum Workshops is planned for late March across Mississippi. Separate workshops are set for work with adults, with youth, and with preschools and children.

Each of the 24 workshops will begin at 7 p.m. All are designed to teach leaders to effectively use curriculum.

The adult workshops will take place in nine cities, March 28, 29, and 31. Leaders for adults will be Bill Latham, coordinating editor, adult section, in the Church Training department of the Sunday School Board; Mic Morrow, editor of Baptist Young Adults, Church Training department, Sunday School Board; David Lee, special worker from Pascagoula with the Mississippi Church Training department; and Norman Rodgers, consultant, Mississippi Church Training department.

Dates and sites for the adult workshops will be Mar. 28 at First Church, Moss Point; Central Church, McComb; and West Laurel, Laurel. For Mar. 29, the sites will be First Church, Gulfport; 38th Avenue, Hattiesburg; and Liberty Church, Liberty. The March 31 sites will be the associational center in Carriere; First Church, Foxworth; and Easthaven Church, Brookhaven.

Youth workshops will take place in nine cities. Mar. 28 will be at Immanuel Church, Vicksburg, with Ron Shearer, minister of education at First Church, Brookhaven, leading. Also on Mar. 28 will be a session at Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, with Terry Garvin, minister of education at First Church, Corinth, leading. Then, also on Mar. 28, a session will be at the

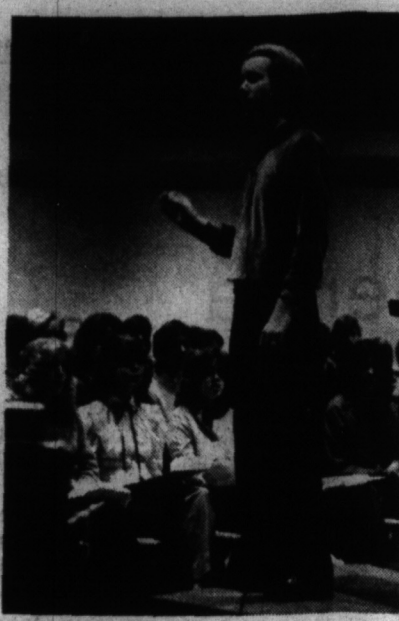
associational office in Mendenhall, with Ken Trinkle, Church Training department staffer from the Florida Baptist Convention, leading.

Mar. 29 youth workshops will be held at Immanuel Church, Natchez, with Shearer leading; at Clarke Baptist Center, Quitman, with Garvin leading; and at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, with Trinkle leading.

Then on Mar. 31, three more youth workshops will be held: at Forest Church, Forest, with Shearer leading; at First Church, Philadelphia, with Garvin leading; and at First Church, Yazoo City, with Trinkle leading.

The preschool/children workshops will take place in six cities on two nights. The three sites for the Mar. 28 meetings will be First Church, Columbus; First Church, Cleveland; and First Church, Winona. Sites for the Mar. 29 meetings will be North Greenwood Church, Greenwood; First Church, Greenville; and Ackerman Church, Ackerman.

Leaders at the preschool/children workshops at Columbus and Ackerman will be Mrs. Evelyn Vaughn and Mrs. Mignonne Tadlock, both curriculum writers from Jackson. At Winona and Greenwood will be Miss Evelyn George, consultant in the Mississippi Church Training department, and Mrs. Patsy Wilson, director of the Creative Learning Center, First Church, Starkville. At Cleveland and Greenville will be Miss Waudine Storey, retired consultant with Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, and Mrs. Shirley Oglesby, preschool director at Parkway Church, Jackson.



Jim Watson, of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, leads the choir during the Gulf Coast Youth Choir Festival.

280 sing in coast choir fest

More than 280 persons from 12 churches participated in the recent Gulf Coast Youth Choir Festival at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Pass Christian.

Guest clinician for the overnight event was Jim Watson, minister of music for Temple Church, Hattiesburg. Activities included fellowships, individual choir performances, mass rehearsals, and a closing concert on Saturday afternoon.

The festival was sponsored by the Gulf Coast Baptist Music Association, a group composed of Music Ministers in Gulf Coast and Jackson County Associations. Leon Bedsole of First, Biloxi, is president of the association, and Randy Cuchens, minister of music and youth at Arlington Heights, Pascagoula, coordinated the festival.

Upcoming events include the annual Gulf Coast Children's Choir Festival and a workshop for Children's Choir Workers. Guest Clinician for the festival and the leader of the workshop will be Martha Kirkland of the Church Music Department in Nashville.

The festival is slated for Friday, March 4, at First, Biloxi, and the workshop for Saturday morning, March 5, at First, Pascagoula. Additional information concerning either event may be obtained from Lewis Oswalt at First, Pascagoula.

Coble will direct handbell festival

The Mississippi Baptist State Handbell Festival will be held at the Mississippi College Coliseum March 18 and 19. It will begin at 7 p.m. on March 18 and conclude at 2:30 p.m. on March 19.

Bert Coble, director of music, Cumberland College, Lebanon, Tenn., will be guest director for the festival, which is for all handbell choirs and directors.

This event is sponsored by the Church Music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Dan C. Hall, director. Perry Robinson is coordinator of the festival.

Those interested in attending should contact the Church Music department by March 7, Robinson said. He added that 35 to 40 choirs are expected to attend.

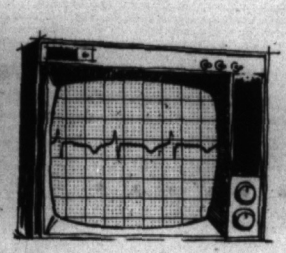
Men will hear Parks

The Brotherhood department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board through its area coordinators in area eight, has joined with the Agricultural Missions Fellowship of Yazoo City to conduct a Missions Rally, Friday, Mar. 11, at Temple Church, Hattiesburg. This is in conjunction with the Man and Boy Rally which begins with a banquet scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Program activities during the banquet will relate primarily to Baptist men and boys. The cost is \$2 per person. Reservations for the banquet are necessary and should be made with Temple Church by Mar. 7.

The evening aspect of the program begins at 7:30 in the church auditorium. This phase of the program is open to all persons interested in agricultural missions.

A Baptist Student Union singing group, the Fishermen, from Mississippi State University, will share musical presentation.

The featured speaker for the evening will be Keith Parks, president of



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Considering a second marriage

I have been divorced two years and have been dating about six months. Due to circumstances and my belief about what the Bible teaches about marriage following divorce, I think I have a right to remarry, but I do not want to make a mistake and be what some people call a two-time loser. Do you have any suggestions that might be helpful? Almost Ready

Dear Almost Ready: Usually following divorce there are some negative reactions to another marriage such as, "I can't ever trust another person," "I don't want to be hurt again," or "I can't possibly run the risk of another marriage because of the children." Others react more positively, "Yes, I want to marry again, but I won't be in a hurry," "I miss the physical affection and sexual expression," or a man may say, "I would like to marry again, but I cannot support two families."

There are some questions to be raised aside from the right you say you have settled.

1. Have I worked through the grief? Do I still hold any resentment, anger, or bitterness that I might project on my new spouse?
2. Have I forgiven myself for any contribution that I made to the marriage failure; or do I keep saying, "If I had done this," or "If we had done that," or "I should never have..."
3. Have I forgiven my former mate?
4. If I have not felt any sense of failure or guilt, does this mean that I am too proud, thinking that I am a perfect husband or wife, ready for someone who is imperfect, so I will set myself up for rejection again? Maybe I need to ask myself why I expect rejection or why I seem to have a need to be rejected.
5. Do I need control or dependency above the normal dependency needs?
6. Am I looking for someone to make me happy? If so, forget it. No one can make you happy. You are in charge of your own feelings and are responsible for them.
7. For what reasons did I marry before? How do these compare with the present considerations? Were some of my reasons before wrong reasons, and am I about to repeat the process?
8. Am I over-anxious for security for myself or my children?
9. Must I marry because of loneliness? Remember, married people are lonely, too. Companionship is one valid reason for marriage, but maybe you need to learn the difference between solitude and loneliness.

There are some good reasons for marriage, granted that love exists and commitment is a viable option. They may be stated as (1) I am loved and loving again. (2) I do need to be needed. (3) I need the dependability, the routine of a home situation in which there is a partner. (4) I need the sense of belonging. I need to be accepted by someone and affirmed often by someone. (5) I do need companionship. (6) I do not have the gift of singleness. I believe it is in the will of God for me to marry. (7) I believe I have found the one; and by association for a long enough period, I feel I can commit myself to him/her in trust for our life time. (8) We have enough values, goals, and spiritual concerns in common to put our marriage potential on the plus side.

Some minor reasons for marriage might be the children's need for a father or mother, bread and butter or more bread and butter, to keep the strong sex drive in moral and legal bounds.

We advise premarital counseling toward a second marriage just as we insist on it before a first one. A competent counselor would help you consider the questions listed as well as additional ones.

Don't overlook the place of prayer in seeking God's direction.

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Questions are welcomed.

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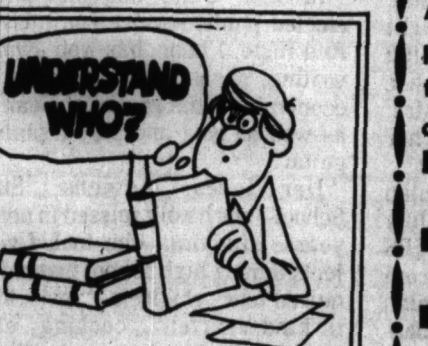
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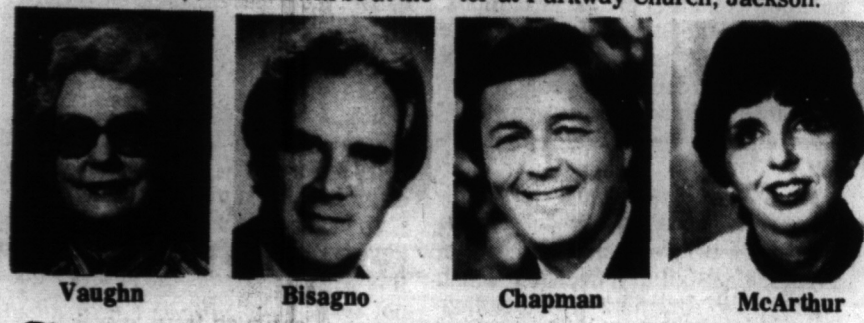
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Vaughn Bisagno Chapman McArthur

Convention major: outreach

A Teaching/Reaching Sunday School Convention will meet at First Church, Jackson, Apr. 11-12. The Monday night opening session will begin at 6:30 p.m. with five mass age-group and general officers conferences majoring on "outreach."

The opening general meeting in the auditorium will feature music by Bette and Ed Stalenecker; Dan McBride, musical satirist; with Harry Piland, and John Bisagno, minister of education, and pastor, respectively, of First Church, Houston, Tex., speaking.

Tuesday morning and afternoon will be devoted to a general meeting in the auditorium followed by two and one-half hours of 19 age-group and general officers conferences.

Conferences majoring on "teaching" will be held for education directors, led by Bernie Spooner, state Sunday School director for Texas Baptists.

Joe Haynes of the Sunday School office in Nashville will lead a conference for all outreach leaders and directors. James Frost, state Sunday School director in Florida, will lead conferences for pastors and general directors and Keener Pharr of Jacksonville, will lead the Homebound leadership conferences.

Single Adult Retreat set at Gulfshore

The 1983 Single Adult Retreat, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, will be May 20-22 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. The theme is "Christ: Lord of the Singles." It will be designed for all singles, those never married and those formerly married.

Leadership for the event will be provided by Charles Baker, pastor of the University Heights Baptist Church, Stillwater, Okla.; Ken Brumley, Oklahoma City; and Dan Crawford, national consultant for evangelism with singles, Home Mission Board. The musician for the retreat will be Faye Burgess, a professional musician from Nashville.

Seminar leaders will be the speakers and John Stone, a retired attorney, and his wife, Jane. Stone will lead seminars which will allow singles to ask questions which they may have of a legal nature. Mrs. Stone will draw upon her training and expertise in the area of work with children to allow single parents to deal with some of the problems and concerns which they have.

This event is a state-wide meeting which attempts to pull together the singles from across the state in an experience of affirmation, witness, celebration, and recommitment, said Paul Jones, Christian Action Commission executive director.

Reservation requests are accepted by mail only by Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. All housing reservation requests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$25 per person. Total cost of the retreat will be \$49.

Further information may be acquired by contacting the Christian Action Commission, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

Tuesday evening will feature again the five mass age-groups and general officers conferences on "Reaching People Through the Sunday School." Featured messages will be given by Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., and Bisagno.

Mississippians involved in teaching age-group conferences will be Margaret McArthur, minister of childhood education at First Church, Hattiesburg; and Evelyn Vaughn, a member of First Church, Jackson. Miss McArthur will teach the "Learners" material and Mrs. Vaughn will teach the "Searchers" material.

Child care for preschool children will be provided for all sessions.

Day camp workshop to impart skills

Camp Garaywa in Clinton will be the site of a Missions Day Camp Workshop, Mar. 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Purpose of the workshop will be to equip persons planning to hold missions day camps, including youth leaders, and those planning mission trips.

Fran Fleming of Clinton will be among leaders for the sessions. She will demonstrate nature craft and cooking. Other topics will be basic day camping, music and games, and training in the missions day camp unit on Brazil, available from Baptist Book Stores, as are materials on missions day camping.

Cost of the program will be \$3.25 per person which includes a box lunch and insurance.

For further information, contact D. P. Smith, Woman's Missionary Union, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

A. T. Walker, minister, dies

Funeral services were held Feb. 18 at First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, for A. T. Walker of Hattiesburg, 72, retired minister who died Feb. 16 at Forrest General Hospital. Peter McLeod, Farrell Blankenship, and Jerry Wise officiated.

Walker was born at Coffeeville, Ala. He was ordained to the ministry by First Baptist Church, Lucedale. He served pastorates in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi, and was director of missions in Alabama. He was a graduate of Clarke College, USM, and New Orleans Seminary.

He was appointed by the Home Mission Board, SBC, to work with National Baptists in Mississippi, where he served 13 years before retirement. After retirement, he continued as a consultant with the Home Mission Board.

Churches he served in Mississippi included First, McLaurin, where he was pastor emeritus; First, Petal; Runnelstown; First; West Ellisville; First, Soso; and Olivet, Gulfport.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Agnes Walker; one son, Jerrel Walker of Pearl; one daughter, Mrs. Cheryl Kelly of Ocean Springs; five grandchildren; and one brother.

Editorials

by don mcgregor

All the world, including America

The United States and its territories represent just as much of a mission field as there is to be found anywhere on the earth. And we send just about as many missionaries into the field here as we send to all of the remainder of the world.

The difference is that those people sent out as home missionaries work through the organizations of the state conventions, and their salaries are worked out to varying degrees through cooperation with the state conventions. Therefore we can have as many workers in the United States as in the rest of the world for less money.

The Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions historically is much less than the one for foreign missions. That, of course, doesn't mean that it is

less important. It means that the cooperative arrangement makes it possible to get more done for less money from the mission board.

March 6 to 13 is the time for the annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the time for the emphasis on the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions. The national goal for the offering is \$25 million.

There are people crying for the gospel in the United States just as there are all over the world. The condition of the lost is just as desperate here as anywhere else. And in the United States, as everywhere else in the world, the population is growing at a faster rate than is the Christian community.

Therefore there is much to be done,

and time is getting away from us.

One has only to visit some of the major cities of our nation to be faced with the realization that we are not doing well as witnesses there. It is not the fault of the Home Mission Board that the cities have gotten away from us. There are not enough home missionaries to make a dent. The cities are pagan lands, and it will take mountains of money to make any headway at all in those environments.

They are our cities, however, and we must provide a witness to them. There should be 14 million Southern Baptist missionaries in our nation; and with each one of us doing just a little bit of witnessing, the task would be easy.

But we don't, so we need missionaries. And, admittedly, they can

become more adept than most of the rest of us at going into places like inner cities and making the gospel known to those with whom they can establish contact.

They are to be found in more places than inner cities, however; and several are at work in Mississippi. There are church planters, missionaries working with Indians, missionaries working with Southeast Asians, missionaries working with Hispanics, and many others.

They need monetary support, and they need prayer support continually. This is the time they need this support most of all, for it is the time during which attention has been called to their ministry. If we don't provide the support now, we never will.

Religion in the locker room

A few weeks ago the writer was disappointed in the fact that the Dallas Cowboys lost the National Football Conference championship game to the Washington Redskins. My family lived in Dallas for 20 years, and two sons still live there.

Regardless of the disappointment, however, I was appreciative of the behavior and testimony of the Washington coach, Joe Gibbs, who was the National Football League coach of the year. His statement after the game was that there were several whom he needed to thank for being there—God first. He didn't indicate that he felt his team deserved divine intervention in order to be able to win. After all, there are bound to be Christ-

ians on all of the teams. But he was thankful to God for being able to stand in the winning coach's spotlight and said as much on national television. He repeated the testimony following the Redskin win in the Super Bowl.

Feb. 15 to 17 I attended the annual meeting of the editors of the state Baptist papers, the Southern Baptist Press Association, and heard a speech which gladdened the heart and put the testimony into perspective. One of the speakers was James Langley, the executive secretary of the Washington, D. C., convention and a school mate from college days. He pointed out that Joe Gibbs is a Baptist and a Sunday School teacher in a church in the Washington area. That in effect, means

that Joe Gibbs is a Southern Baptist; for the Washington churches are dually aligned with both the American Baptist Churches, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Then Langley, added another interesting bit of information that also gladdened the heart. He pointed out that Mark Moseley, the place kicker on the Washington team, is also a Southern Baptist and a former member of the Willow Meadows Church in Houston, Texas. Moseley is now a member of the Haymarket Church in the Washington area, and his wife is the choir director there.

Moseley was the most valuable player in the National Football League for the past season and broke the

league record for the most consecutive field goals kicked.

Not all have bowed the knee to Baal. The Miami Dolphins also had a moment of meditation and/or prayer following the Super Bowl game, which they lost. And following the Penn State bowl game the camera got to the dressing room too soon and found many (not all) of the players on their knees in prayer. Later the most valuable player delivered a ringing testimony.

Christians are found in every walk of life, and many of them are delivering testimonies without hesitation. Surely these instances should give us all inspiration to witness to those around us, because the lost are to be found on every hand. And theirs is a desperate condition indeed.

Letters to the Editor

Prayer in schools

Editor:

On the first page of the Jan. 27 edition of the Baptist Record and on page 83 of the Jan. 31 edition of U.S. News and World Report it was clearly stated that the Lubbock, Texas schools could not allow voluntary prayer on campus. By virtue of the failure of the Supreme Court of the U.S. to review a decision of a lower circuit court of appeals, a decision stood and becomes a "crawfish" type ruling by the Supreme Court itself.

The ruling disallowed school children to meet on a public school campus for prayer before or after school activities. Last fall in a decision, which your paper commented on, college students could use a state owned and operated university room for voluntary prayer meetings, yet high school students could not use such public facilities, ostensibly because high school students do not have sense enough to pray.

In your most recent edition of the Baptist Record on Feb. 3, you state in an editorial that maybe the court did not mean that you said it said. You also said President Reagan avowed his support of voluntary prayer in public schools, but you said his concept of voluntary was an administration-sponsored prayer meeting. How do you know that your version of the president's voluntary prayer support is what you say it is? He has never said so one way or the other. You deliberately mis-inform your reading audience about a stand taken by the president, and this is unfair.

The Constitution has one sentence in it about religion and only one. That sentence does not mention prayer. All it says is, "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Now how in the name of all that is reasonable is prayer in a public place establishing religion? It simply is not. The Constitution of the U.S. is a simple document, written in plain language so that anyone who can read can understand it. It doesn't need the present day horde of "Pharisees" to interpret it to death.

Harry L. Cole
Ruth, Miss.

Prayer in a public place is not establishing a religion unless it is mandatory prayer. This publication pointed out that the Lubbock High School decision had to be a mistake, though it may have been made in the hope that a better case would come along. And President Reagan made public his concept of prayer in schools when he announced his support. The statement was reported by the Washington Bureau of Baptist Press.—Editor.

Thanks from Whitfield

Editor:

The patients and employees at Mississippi State Hospital continue to be overwhelmed at the love and concern that so many people of the churches in the state share with us. Especially during the past Christmas season we were blessed with gifts; fruits and candies; clothing, both new and usable; and personal items as well as with programs, parties, and other activities provided for over 1,650 patients. Twenty prominent individuals from the Jackson area (about 10 were from Broadmoor Baptist Church) assisted as Santa's helpers in distributing individually wrapped gifts to the patients.

Many of our employees as well as patients are members of Southern Baptist churches throughout the state. Various other denominations are also represented in membership. We are appreciative of the ties that bind the church members to our hospital through their interest and participation in the various activities with the patients.

We are glad to share information concerning the work of Mississippi State Hospital. One of the most positive aspects of providing good health care for those in need is the opportunity to have the interest and support of people of various communities throughout the state. The Volunteer Services Department (939-1221, extension 272) welcomes individuals and

groups who would like to be considered for volunteer work in one of several kinds of possibilities.

Thanks to each of you who shared! James C. Stubbs, director Mississippi State Hospital Whitfield, Miss. James C. Stubbs is a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.—Editor

Women deacons

Editor:

Some remarks about the letter from Gary and Judy Medley concerning the ordination of women as deacons:

To set the record straight, I too believe it is not proper for women to hold this office. However, the practice does not seem to be without a New Testament precedence since we read that Paul commended a deaconess to the church at Rome (Rom. 16:1).

Regardless of how we feel about this matter, the point is that there is work that must be done. More and more we find fewer men who are willing to stand up and fill the gaps in obedience to the commands of our Lord. So, what do you expect? By and large, pastors are in their places of responsibility because they are in love with Jesus the Christ.

If for one, intend to carry out instructions contained in the Great Commission, and if it is necessary to ordain women as deaconesses to get the job done, so be it.

William J. Abel, pastor Trinity Baptist Church Biloxi

Against drunk drivers

Editor:

Our MADD organization (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) appreciates the support you, some members of the Legislature, church people, and others have given to the recent efforts for stiffening the drunk driver laws in our State.

MADD is interested in getting more chapters organized in our State. MADD is an organization of victims, survivors, and other concerned individuals (not just Mothers) working together to accomplish some specific goals—(1) getting adequate drunk driver legislation passed; (2) helping educate the public, especially youth, about drunk driving; (3) assisting victims; (4) establishing new chapters; (5) attempting to see that judges carry out fully legislation that is passed; and (6) helping the drunken driver, where possible.

We will be glad to help you in any way in getting the message against drunken driving to the public. Sympathy has been too long with the drunken driver rather than the victim. Persons interested in starting a MADD chapter may write us or MADD, 5350 Primrose—Suite 146, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

Mrs. Ann Stringer, vice-president Pearl River County MADD Chapter 104 West Oak Poplarville, MS 39470

Guest opinion . . .

One drunk driver in Mississippi

By Duann Kier

If you think you will never be victimized by a drunk driver, you may be dead wrong, warns a Southern Baptist on the Mississippi Governor's Task Force Against Drunk Driving.

"It happened to us and I don't want anyone else to go through the same tragedy we did," said Linda Pace, whose 15-year-old daughter was killed in a drunk driving accident a little over two years ago. "We've been there. We know how it hurts."

According to a resource guide just published by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, one out of every 10 cars on the road on a typical Friday or Saturday night will be a deadly weapon in the hands of a drunk driver. Every year at least 25,000 people are killed, and 750,000 are injured, in alcohol-related crashes.

"These statistics are shocking," said Mrs. Pace, who is a church secretary at Prentiss Baptist Church in south Mississippi. "But they'll become more shocking unless something is done. We need to take a stand."

The Pace family became victims of a drunk driver on Saturday night, Dec. 13, 1980. Linda and Jimmy Pace received a call informing them their daughter, Kathy, had been involved in an automobile accident. They were told to meet the ambulance at the hospital.

Kathy had gone Christmas shopping that afternoon with a girlfriend, Teresa Coulter, and Teresa's parents.

Betty and Wiley Coulter had been traveling in a separate car ahead of the girls when the accident occurred. The Paces and Coulters arrived at the hospital before the ambulance.

"Betty embraced me and told me how very sorry she was, but I never thought about the possibility that our daughter could be dead," Linda Pace said. "When the ambulance finally arrived, only one stretcher was brought out. Theresa was on it. I could tell she was injured seriously."

When the Paces inquired about their daughter Kathy's injuries, no one answered them. Only after Jimmy insisted on knowing Kathy's condition were they told she was dead.

"There was a kind of numbness that overshadowed me. Jimmy kept saying he couldn't believe it," Mrs. Pace remembered. "Wiley described what happened, but none of what he said seemed to register with me except that the driver who caused the accident appeared to be drunk. He could smell alcohol on his breath."

It wasn't until the trial, Mrs. Pace said, that she received the full details of their daughter's death. Wiley Coulter testified that the car which caused the accident came toward his at a tremendous speed and was veering toward the wrong side of the highway. Coulter swerved to keep from being hit, looked in his rearview mirror, and saw the lights of his daughter's car disappear.

"The car had slammed into the pas-

senger's side—head on," Mrs. Pace said.

The 44-year-old driver of the car which caused the accident sustained only minor injuries and was found to have a blood alcohol content reading of .177 (in Mississippi a driver with a .10 blood alcohol level is considered to be intoxicated). He was charged with manslaughter in Kathy's death and with aggravated assault on Teresa's injuries. His trial in August 1981 ended in a mistrial because one juror was separated from the other jurors. The trial was rescheduled for January 1982, and he was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

"After this conviction, however, he spent only about four days in jail," Mrs. Pace emphasized. "He appealed the decision, posted bond, and was freed pending a review of his case by the state Supreme Court. As of February 1983 he was still free and hadn't even lost his driver's license."

"Had this person shot Kathy with a gun he would have been charged with murder; yet, his weapons were a bottle of alcohol and the steering wheel of an automobile," Mrs. Pace said. "He was still free to drive on our highways, a right he had abused. I felt I had to do something."

Mrs. Pace was told there was nothing anyone could do under current Mississippi law.

"Since then, however, I have been in contact with legislators who want to enact stiffer penalties against drunk

ing with the Little Folks Choir, to do solo and narrator parts for a spring musical. With the church's puppet ministry, she has sung in over 40 churches, as well as on radio, and has appeared on TV.

Her dad plays the guitar, banjo, mandolin, and harmonica (he likes bluegrass and gospel) and plays for Fifth Sunday Sings. It was he who taught her to play the guitar; they often perform together. Her mother, who teaches youth in Sunday School, shared with me: "Hope's proudest moment was seeing her dad become a fellow Baptist. He was reared as a Mormon."

In Girls' State, one year she was elected public service commissioner. And Hope, I hear, has won awards in writing, speaking, music, and home economics. That means she can cook, as well as sing and play a piano and guitar.

Her loves: Acteens; Sunday School—she hasn't missed in nearly 11 years; studying—she took five subjects during high school instead of required four; children—"loves to work in kindergarten"; cooking; eating; her piano teacher (who is in a wheelchair)—her essay on the handicapped took first place in school and county; senior adults—as a volunteer in nursing homes, she plays Bingo with the elderly and sings for them; plants—she has a green thumb; animals—she owns two poodles.



The Freemans: Jimmy, Linda, Hope, Hayley.

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams



Our one and only Hope

Hope and her mother, joined us for an hour of conversation at the BSU Center.

The Freemans live on a farm seven miles east of town, but also own a trailer in Wesson so that the girls may not have to drive far after late night activities. Hayley, Miss Wesson High School and a cheerleader, is, like her sister, a "straight A" student. Mrs. Freeman is a "housewife" and her husband is "a railroad man."

This summer, they said, all four plan to be missionaries for a week (July 16-23) on the Gulf Coast, teaching VBS with Paul Vandercook. Others from their church, Strong Hope in Copiah County, will go also. (Hope was baptized at age 7.)

No wonder her favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (she's painted it on wooden plaques as gifts to friends). She would need strength for all she does!

On the Co-Lin BSU Council, she is missions chairman. She sings with the Co-Lin Concert Choir (for one concert, she learned, in Latin, Schubert's "Mass in G"). As a member of the college revival team, Agape, she visits churches to sing and witness in youth revivals.

At Strong Hope Church, she sings in the youth choir, and now she is practic-

"My poodle is this big," said Hope Freeman. Her accomplishments are this big: she's the first Mississippi Acteen ever to receive the Citation, highest award in Studiact.

Are there many more young people like Hope Freeman? Then I feel a surge of hope for tomorrow! At the WMU convention, I heard D. P. Smith announce that Hope is Mississippi's first Acteen ever to receive the Citation, highest award in Studiact. (You'd better believe she EARNED that award, with six years of intense mission study and action.) At Acteens Queen's Court, she and her mother were guests of honor. She was featured in Accent as one of the nation's Top Teens.

Not until a sunny afternoon in January did I meet her again—by then 18 and a freshman at Co-Lin. Her parents, Jimmy and Linda, and her sister, Hayley, 17, a pretty blonde like



Possible Chinese entry forcing Hong Kong strategy changes

HONG KONG (BP)—Missionaries and Baptists are facing up to the likelihood China will take over Hong Kong on or before the 1997 expiration date of British sovereignty.

The possibility of Chinese takeover is forcing Hong Kong Christians to "rethink what a church is" and make profound changes in their approach to ministry, according to George Hays, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for east Asia.

"I don't think there is any question the Chinese government will exercise some control" over Hong Kong churches if it moves in, Hays said. "Christians need to think about what they are going to do, not wait until it happens."

Mother/daughter weekend filled

GA Mother/Daughter Weekend scheduled for April 22-23, at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, is completely filled. No more reservations can be taken. Another weekend is planned for September 23-24.



Library officers plan workshop

The Mississippi Church Media Library officers for 1983, met recently at First Church, Columbus to plan the 1983 media workshop which will be at Harrisburg, Tupelo, Oct. 21-22. Seated from left are Jeanne Lummus, vice president, Harrisburg, Tupelo; Margaret Perkins, president, First, Columbus; Larry Salter, church media consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; seated are Margaret Autry, program chairman, First, Louisville; Sandra Fitts, historian, First, Corinth; Amy Rhoden, secretary-treasurer, First, Columbus; Gettie Rankin, promotion chairman, First, Mendenhall; and Millie Wood, ex-officio, First, Louisville.

Hong Kong's high-powered financial market nose-dived last fall when China declared all of Hong Kong would be "recovered when conditions are ripe." Later Chinese assurances that business as usual would prevail have failed to calm the fears of many investors and Hong Kong citizens.

Great Britain negotiated a treaty with Imperial China in 1898 leasing about 90 percent of Hong Kong until 1997. Two earlier treaties turned the rest of the port over to the British permanently. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher maintains all three treaties are valid under international law. The Chinese foreign ministry declares them "unequal" and void. Negotiations are underway to resolve the dispute.

In the meantime Hong Kong Christians should develop new models of church growth not dependent on institutions, buildings or clergy, say some church leaders. The leaders urge a high priority on lay training and smaller congregations built around families, similar to the "house" church inside China.

Hays believes missionaries can best help by training and encouraging leaders and testing new church

models. Eighty-three Southern Baptist missionaries work with more than 30,000 Baptists in Hong Kong and nearby Macao, a Portuguese colony. Southern Baptists began work in Macao in 1910; Hong Kong was entered in 1949. He stressed missionaries will minister in Hong Kong as long as they are allowed to stay by any government in power. "Only the Lord knows what the future holds," he said.

Oakland Baptist Church, Corinth: Christian Life Revival, March 6-11; speaker, Major W. Ian Thomas, founder and general director of the Capernway Missionary Fellowship of Torchbearers, Capernway Hall, England. (Thomas is the author of *The Saving Life of Christ: If I Perish, I Perish*; and *The Ministry of Godliness*.) services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday; noon and 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; William L. Owens, pastor.

Cambridge, Gautier: March 6-13; Millard Box, Neosho, Mo., evangelist; Wade Ivey, minister of music at Cambridge, leading the singing; Bible study at weekday noon luncheon; dinner on grounds after morning service on Sunday, 6th; Sunday services at regular time; weekday 7 p.m.; Warren Langworthy, interim pastor.

Names in the News

Elton and Dottie Gray, missionaries to Japan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 2004 Sycamore, Apt. 2, Springdale, Ark. 72764). He is a native of Loretto, Tenn.; she is the former Dottie Eavenson of Marks, Miss. They began serving with the Foreign Mission Board in 1970.

Kevin Jones, 32, a student at Southwestern Seminary, is an intern at the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Jones and his wife Rosa Lee, formerly operated the *Iawamba County Times* and were members of First Church, Fulton. They, along with their two children, Bradley and B. J., are preparing for foreign mission service in Israel.

Jack Cox was ordained recently as deacon at Temple Baptist Church, Lee County.

Word of mouth may be the cheapest kind of advertising but it's somewhat difficult to control the copy.

Thursday, March 3, 1983

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Robert Howard Long, pastor of Wellman Baptist Church, Bogie Chitto, has resigned, to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Clinton, Ky.

John McMullen has accepted the pastorate of Friendship Baptist Church, Oktibbeha County. He will move there from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Black Rock, Ark. He is a native of Mississippi.

Donnie Guy has assumed duties as pastor of the Woolmarket Baptist Church, Biloxi, according to John Sherman, chairman of deacons. He was reared in Mobile, Ala. He was ordained in First Baptist Church, Prichard, Ala. He is a graduate of Mobile College, Southern Bible Seminary, and Clarksville Seminary. Guy has held pastorates in both Alabama and Mississippi. He goes to Woolmarket after two years in evangelistic work.

Jim Hearn, former pastor, Oak Grove Church, Mississippi Association, Smithdale, resigned there in order to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Wasilla, Alaska, near Anchorage. Hearn, his wife, and daughter worked in Alaska as US-2ers, before his graduation from New Orleans Seminary.

Larry Herndon, who was graduated from New Orleans Baptist Seminary in 1982, has accepted the pastorate of the New Zion Baptist Church, Choctaw Association.

Barry Ward has resigned the pastorate of Mt. Comfort Baptist Church, Calhoun County, and has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Guntown.

Broadmoor marks Wood's 10th year

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, honored J. M. Wood and his wife, Gail, Sunday evening, Feb. 20, on his tenth anniversary as minister of music at Broadmoor. They were presented a check from the church. On Feb. 16, the Church Choir had a Valentine Fellowship in their home and presented them a silver service.

The Woods came to Broadmoor from Wichita, Kan. in 1973, having previously served churches in their home state of Oklahoma. One of the largest music ministries in the state, Broadmoor has choirs for all ages, seven vocal ensembles, handbell choirs, and drama groups, and music/mission choir tours for both youth and adult choirs. A unique feature of this ministry is the offering of class lessons in voice, music reading, piano, and hymn playing at no cost to persons desiring them.

Wood has served as president of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen and is outgoing president of the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference. Mrs. Wood is an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in the office of Baptist Record.

The Baptist Record issue of Feb. 17 had pictures switched of Noel Brock, who has been called as pastor of Providence Church near Cleveland in Bolivar County, and Larry Futral, who has been called as minister of education and music at First Church, Ocean Springs. The pictures are reprinted above.

John A. Thomason, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Champaign, Ill., has resigned to accept the pastorate of Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. He plans to begin his ministry in Jackson April 3. Thomason, 34, who succeeds John Claypool at Northminster, is a native of Corpus Christi, Tex. He was graduated from Baylor University and Southern Baptist Seminary and studied at Oxford University in England and at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Currently he is writing a book on stress management, along with co-author, Jerry Robinson, professor of rural sociology at University of Illinois, and a Mississippian.

Mrs. J. E. Lane dies

Mrs. James E. (Eunice) Lane, 83, of 450 East Ridgeway, Jackson, died Monday, Feb. 21, at St. Dominic's Hospital. Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Wed., Feb. 23, at Baldwin Funeral Home, Jackson.

A native of Covington County, she had lived in Jackson for 40 years. She was a member of Woodland Hills Baptist Church. Her husband, the late J. E. Lane, was for many years business manager for the Baptist Record.

Survivors include two daughters, Leonora Lane of Jackson, and Mrs. James T. (Wilma Jean) Harris of Crystal Springs; one sister; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Gifts of Honor and Memory Jan. 26 - Feb. 24

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Dr. Jerry R. Adkins
New Hope Baptist Church
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FBC, Sumrall
Miss Rosa Allen
Mrs. Anne Shackelford
Mrs. Ruth B. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Weeks
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Cascilla Baptist Church
Mrs. Pate Brown, Sr.
Cascilla Ladies' Sunday School
Mr. Henry Anders
Mrs. George Barney
Kirby Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Gene D. Holliman
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Mrs. Margie "Mickey" Andrews
Mrs. George H. Barney
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Mrs. W. G. Mize, Sr.
Mr. James Elco Middleton
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Fore
Mr. John B. Easter
Mr. & Mrs. James Hollingsworth
Mrs. Jerry Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Harris Peyton
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Stuard
Mrs. Nathan Mitchell
Butch Bright
Harold & June Brooks
Randy Moore
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. McWilliams & Family
Mrs. Jessie Nell Moorhead
Mrs. Marcella Hardy
Mrs. Morgan
Lex & Helen Brame, Jr.
Mel Crozier
Mrs. Henri Mosby
Harold & Mary Davis
Sid & Katherine Adams
Ethel Moss
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker, Jr.
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Mrs. E. S. Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Statham
Mrs. Harvey Myers
Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Van Namen
Mrs. Woodie Nash
Mrs. W. B. Sellers
Julie Sellers
Mr. Marion Noel
Mr. & Mrs. Henry M. Glaze & Family
Mr. Horace T. Overby
Mr. & Mrs. Lex Brame, Jr.
Mel Crozier
Mr. & Mrs. E. K. Merritt
Miss Stella McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Parke
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter
Mr. Robert R. Parker
Joel & Elizabeth Howell
Mrs. B. B. Fowles
Kenny Peoples
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Hambrick
W. P. & Murry A. Evans

Mrs. Lora Mitchell
TEL Sunday School
"Tat" Pender
Harold & June Brooks
Mr. Dewitt Pittman
James & Mary Elizabeth Hodges
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Carlyle
Joel Pittman
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Brown
Mrs. Peggy Pittman
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Howard
Mrs. V. S. (Anna) Pleasant
Mr. & Mrs. Earl B. Allen
Mr. Harry Post, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter
Son of Mrs. Wood Polk
Mrs. Wood Polk
Mr. Wendell Post
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Earlene Ramey
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin A. Baker
Harvey Thomas Rea
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rayburn
Mr. Thomas Gresham Reed, Jr.
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Wilma Richmond
Mrs. Doris L. Scrivner
Mrs. Lela Riddell
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Mrs. Rebecca Perkins
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Hettie & Sue
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton B. Egger
Mrs. Eloise Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Morgan
Jack Phyllis & Beverly Henry
Rev. Olyn F. Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Garner Morgan
Mike Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Kenneth
Mr. Robert Bradford
Mrs. Eula Rogers
Skyward Sunday School
Mrs. Rogers Rogers
Mrs. Gladys Wallace
Mr. David Ross
Janet Clare Smith
Bob Rathford
Sam & Margaret Dribben
Vernon Savell
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Searcy
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Ray
Dr. William E. Selby
Mrs. Fred Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Shannon
Mrs. Leslie S. Turner
Father of Joyce Shanteau
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Williams
Mrs. Connie Mae Shealey
Mrs. Blanche Williams
Miss Gene Williams
Robert Shuler
Don & Jerry Schilling
Mrs. H. S. (Bryde) Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Perry, Jr.
Pauline Pettit Skinner
Mr. Lon Stallings
Mrs. J. C. Stenham
Miss Mildred Horne
Mrs. Robbie Smith
Mrs. Beulah Culbertson
Mrs. Louise Southerland
Mrs. Fannie Stewart
Myra Sadler & Mother
Harold Stone
W. P. & Murry A. Evans

Mrs. Floyd Stroud
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Ballard & Family
Mrs. Minnie Stroup
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Mrs. C. J. Stuard
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Mr. A. B. Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Nelson
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Mrs. A. W. Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter
Mrs. Deanne Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Wade C. Donnell
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Swer
Mrs. Leslie S. Turner
Mrs. Addie Maud Tate
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Hilliard
Col. William D. Tatum, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. H. N. Rayburn, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Thigpen
Mrs. Leslie S. Turner
Mr. Sam Allen Thompson
J. E. Cone
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Kimbrough
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Orr
Bilbo Thrallkill
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Mrs. Minor Trimble
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Samuel Taylor Upchurch
Mrs. Marvin E. Wiggins, Sr.
Mrs. Ida Upton
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Hazel Vines
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin A. Baker
Jess Dalton Vinyard
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Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
Mrs. Lucille Virden
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Berhette
Mrs. Zenna Vise
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Mr. & Mrs. Clemon Wall
Mrs. Voss
Augusta Peacock
Robert J. Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Norwood & Family
Mr. Edward Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Warren
Mrs. Luna Warren
Mr. Charles Warren
Mrs. (C. A.) Elizabeth Pitts Watts
Alanson & Lois Turnbough
Mrs. Melvin Ellis
Mrs. Janie Weaver
Wilma Coney
Mr. James Wesley Weeks
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Van Namen
Mrs. Zena Westerfield
Mrs. E. A. Sigrest, Sr.
Mrs. Arnold (Betty) Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Weeks
Mr. Carter H. Williams
Mrs. Lottie Whittington
Howard Williams
Minnie Westbrooks
Mrs. Isabel Williams
Mary Ida Pack
Mrs. Roy A. Berry
Mr. & Mrs. E. N. Lane
Mrs. J. W. Williams
Mrs. John Barrows
Mr. & Mrs. S. L. Robinson
Helen Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Gully
Lloyd S. Wilson
Mrs. R. W. Chapman
Mrs. Isabella Winchester
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Jackson
Mr. Ewell (Pete) Wood
Tri County Baptist Church
Key Woods
Mrs. Key Woods
Mr. Boyd Young
Mrs. Thomas Fite Paine

William Carey hosts student governments

William Carey College hosted the first annual conference of Baptist Student Governments on February 4-5 at its Hattiesburg campus.

The 57 leaders attending the conference represented Louisiana College, Mississippi College, Mobile College and William Carey College—Hattiesburg, Gulf Coast, and New Orleans campuses.

Resolutions were passed concerning presidential and vice-presidential scholarships; administrative support of attaining Christian entertainment on campuses; better service for the diverse student bodies and active support for our fellow student governments as stated in the motto, "Com-

binning Our Strengths to Overcome Our Weaknesses."

The six schools participating established a formal convention to have official meetings three times yearly. Plans are to expand next year to encompass all of Alabama and parts of Tennessee, and Arkansas.

Student government presidents attending the conference were Danny Edney, William Carey, moderator of the convention; Danny Herold, William Carey on the Coast; Chuck Shelton, William Carey in New Orleans; Tom Arnold, Louisiana College; Jim Turcotte, Mississippi College; and Denis Tanner, Mobile College.

Timely drought relief earns respect for shunned churches

ALUBAREN, Honduras (BP)—A helping hand to needy neighbors produced respect and increased attendance for two small Baptist churches in a mountainous region of Honduras.

When drought all but eliminated the local harvest, church members began helping the neighbors who had despised them. As a result, Baptists no longer are shunned but are respected. Church attendance has climbed.

The situation developed when the customary June rains failed to come last year.

Missionary performs with royalty

BANGALORE, India—Southern Baptist missionary Sarah Williams, formerly of Ripley, was featured recently in a piano concert with Rani Vijaya Devi, sister of the last Maharaja of Mysore in southern India. The Maharani, a member of Indian royalty, is a concert pianist who studied music at The Juilliard School in New York City.

The concert was attended by almost 500 people, including the governor of the state of Karnataka.

Mrs. Williams, wife of the missionary physician, Van W. Williams III, received the bachelor of music degree from Mississippi College, and master of music in piano from the University of Mississippi.

A 12,000 residents of this strongly evangelical area of the Reito-cay-Alubaren mountains watched helplessly as their young bean and corn plants dried up. Their harvest of corn—the local staple—amounted to less than 10 percent of the normal crop.

Members of the two Baptist churches decided to try to help. They asked for funds from the Baptist Convention's Commission of Social Ministries, and personally contributed \$75—equivalent to an average monthly wage. The commission responded with a program to provide food and work, designed by Larry Elliott, Southern Baptist missionary from Virginia.

The Foreign Mission Board provided \$7,573 in hunger relief funds for the project.

Workers repaired major roads and a school building and built a fence for a health center. Each worker received a day's wages in beans, rice, salt, and lard, plus a booklet of scripture passages, "The Life of Jesus."

Liberty Church adds entrance

Liberty Baptist Church, Smith County, has constructed a new front entrance which includes a vestibule and a shelter with four white columns over the front steps. The construction took place in December, 1982.

On Baptist Men's Day in January, members of the congregation gathered on the new front steps to have their picture made.

Liberty recently ordained Jeff D. Martin to the deacon ministry. Frank Mowdy is the pastor.



Old pews at Starkville

A planning session is in order for Bill McDaniel, left, teacher of the Businessmen's Sunday School Class at First Church, Starkville, and Willie Templeton, president of the class. The pews used in the classroom are those used in the old brick auditorium that was built in 1889 and is still standing next to the present auditorium. The pews were built with wooden pegs instead of nails. When the old building was renovated in 1922, the old pews were discarded. The Sunday School class rescued them and put them to use. They were refinished again in 1980. The lectern the class uses was built in 1886 and was used in the old auditorium until its use was discontinued in 1962, when the new one was completed. (Photo courtesy of the STARKVILLE DAILY NEWS)

Brooks Hays Memorial Fund established in Washington

WASHINGTON (BP)—A ceremony at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 26 established the Brooks Hays Memorial Fund.

The fund, in memory of the former Arkansas congressman and Southern Baptist Convention president who died in 1981, will benefit five organizations in which Hays took a lively interest: the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, Former Members of Congress and Calvary Baptist Church (all of Washington, D.C.), and Second Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark. Hays was a member of both churches.

Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., who announced the fund, called Hays "first, last, and always a devout Christian Baptist. He was a household word in our house from the time I was a child."

Hays was defeated for a ninth term in Congress in 1968 after seeking to mediate a dispute between then-governor Orval Faubus of Arkansas and President Dwight D. Eisenhower during the 1957 school desegregation

crisis at Little Rock's Central High School.

The audience included Hays' wife, Marion; his daughter, Betty Brooks Bell; and Clarence Cranford, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church when Hays was a member and president of the American Baptist Convention at the same time Hays presided over the Southern Baptist Convention.

Malaysia Seminary opens branch

SINGAPORE—The Singapore branch of the Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang, Malaysia, began classes Jan. 4, 1983, with seven full-time students. Theological studies in Singapore were upgraded from a regional department of TEE (Theological Education by Extension) to a teaching branch of the seminary to accelerate pastor training and provide a way for current pastors to upgrade their degrees.

WMU, SBC, looks for old magazines

The centennial of WMU, SBC, will be celebrated in 1988. In preparation for this, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, SBC, states that the national WMU office would like to receive for the archives any WMU magazines or products published prior to 1952, especially between 1906 and 1952. She adds, "We would also like to have any letters written by WMU, SBC, staff members or national

presidents, or photographs of such personages. We must limit our collections of letters, photographs, and memorabilia to those of persons connected to the national office, as we know that state organizations will want to collect those items of state personages."

Anyone having such items to contribute may send them to Betty Hurtt, WMU, SBC, 600 North 20th St., Birmingham, Ala. 35203.

Spanish Baptists send missionary to Melilla

Spanish Baptists have taken a step toward realization of a long-time dream of sending their own missionary to another land.

In October, 1982, the Spanish Baptist Evangelical Union appointed Jorge Juan Pastor Mut to serve for a three-month period in Melilla, Equatorial Guinea, in northwest Africa.

The minister, whose surname is Pastor, left Spain in January. He is serving as a forerunner to future Spanish missionaries in that area. His primary duty will be to study the surrounding conditions and determine the feasibility of opening mission work in Melilla. This city, on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco, is a Spanish possession.

If the Spanish Baptist Evangelical

Union then deems it advisable to send a missionary to Africa, the Spanish Convention would collaborate with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the effort, Pastor said.

At this time the Southern Baptist missionaries, Jesse B. and Peggy R. Thompson, are serving in Malabo, the capital city of Equatorial Guinea, under the Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

Upon returning to Spain, Pastor will resume his duties as radio minister and director of the kindergarten at Montgo, Christian Fellowship Center, in Denia, Alicante. He also is vice president of the Spanish Baptist Evangelical Union.

Devotional Acceptance

By Ken Marler, pastor, First, Houston, Miss.

Matthew 9:9-12

It was a big box wrapped, or should I say taped, very securely. "Open it, open it!" came the cry from all the young people as they stood back. I should have known this was no ordinary birthday present. I gently opened the cardboard flaps and took away the newspaper. It was an opossum! Those young people caught and giftwrapped a live 'possum for me! The box turned over, kids and 'possum went all over the yard. After the excitement calmed a little, I was genuinely thankful for their thoughtfulness. For they in their own way said, "We accept you, Brother Ken."

Acceptance is a tricky thing. Jesus had big problems with it. He accepted everyone, but few accepted him.

Those who should have been open to our Lord were the very ones who closed themselves to him. The Pharisees asked, "Why does your Master eat with publicans and sinners?"

When people accept you, why do they do it? Your nice smile, good personality, money, ambition? Or are you accepted because you know Jesus Christ? If the truth be known, most of us never find out.

Jesus ate with the sinners because he wanted them to accept what he had. A new life! He wasn't accepted because of his smile, good looks, personality, or ambition. He was accepted because he could give them something eternal and life changing.

The best acceptance came from a young teenager who presented me a present as we were leaving that church for a new pastorate. The gift was a plaque; it is on my desk today, and it reads, "Thank you for showing me the love of Jesus." What a way to be accepted!

Bible Book

Right relationships

By Joe H. Tuten, pastor, Calvary, Jackson
Romans 12:1-21

We begin a new unit of study this Sunday. The unit theme is "The Gospel in Every Day Living," based on Romans 12:1-16:27. This unit will conclude our study of Romans. Our lesson this week is entitled, "Living in Right Relationships," and the scripture is chapter 12.

Thoughtful people across the ages have pondered three great questions, namely, the question of origins, the question of relationships, and the question of destinies. Almost every vexing aspect of life concerns relationships. Life's greatest pain for all of us has to do with relationships. There is no trouble which surpasses the trouble rooted in relationships. We constantly are confronted with problems about relationships in the family, at the job, with neighbors and friends, and through business. Relationships are, indeed, the testing ground and the spiritual battlefield of all of life for everyone.

The central theme of Sunday's lesson is that "Christians are to respond to God's mercies by living in right relationships with God and other persons." Every person in your Sunday School room Sunday will be a person who needs help with his or her relationships. Please do not treat the matter lightly. Most of them want right relationships—with God and other persons in the family, at the job, and even in the church.

God has given the Christian two great laboratories of life in which to learn how to practice the principles which build right relationships. They are the home and the church. Both are warm and friendly places stocked with generous supplies of such remarkable items as respect, frankness, expectation, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and love. It is a good feeling to know that we are not going to be thrown out of either the family or the church because of flaws and failures in our relationships. They love us. They want us to stay. They will help us. Truly these are gifts from God for Christian nurture. The Bible, as someone has said, is our operator's manual for life. This is what we are studying Sunday.

Right responses to God's mercies (Romans 12:1-2). The abundance of God's mercies toward us, which he gives without our deserving them and usually without our even first asking for them, calls for a worthy response from us. God's mercies, therefore, lead us to make the offer. Failure to offer ourselves, on the other hand,

proves that we never have accepted God's mercies, not really! Some persons who are Christians in name are very miserable because they are not making a right response to God's mercies. One cannot in actuality accept God's mercies and at the same time withhold one's life from God. One tears life and personality apart by attempting or pretending such an impossibility. It is devastating. It will make one grouchy, cynical, and mean at home and at church. Right relationships begin with right responses to God's mercies. There must be transformation in order to have right relationships.

Right use of gifts in the body of Christ (Romans 12:3-4). The New Testament clearly teaches that God gives every Christian one or more spiritual gifts. A denial of this, whether born of genuine or false modesty, contradicts God. See 1 Corinthians 12:1-18 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. God intends that each Christian use this particular gift for the good of the Christian community, the church. There is no place for high-mindedness (Romans 12:3). All of us, pastors and members, would do well occasionally to face up to the fact that our church will survive without us or our opinion on a few matters. Entertainment religion, too, sometimes puts humility to a test. We are admonished to use our gifts "according to the grace that is given to us" (Romans 12:6).

Right expressions of brotherly love (Romans 12:9-13). Christians are called upon to express their right relationships toward one another by walking in love. The love must be genuine. Any substitute for love is hypocrisy. The love between Christians survives and lives as genuine love by our hating evil and embracing good (Romans 12:9). Verses 11-13 have to do with crisis situations in life. Unflinching zeal, devotion to Christ, hope, prayer, and generosity can help the Christian sail through any crisis in relationships which may occur between Christians.

Right reactions to conflict and crisis (Romans 12:14-21). This passage deals primarily with the Christian's relationships with those outside the Christian community, with the non-Christian pockets and parts of society. The Christian must not let an unregenerate society set the rules by which he "plays the game of life."

As Christians, we dare not give back in kind to people who neither know nor respect our wonderful God. If we would be true to our Savior, our role must be to absorb the evil which a non-Christian society gives to us and give good in return. We must absorb it personally and individually. There is

Uniform

An expectant fellowship

By John G. Armistead, pastor, Calvary, Tupelo
Acts 1:4-14

Jesus left his first followers with a keen sense of expectancy. His parting words assured them something extraordinary would happen to them shortly. During the following days they must have lived in the excited hope of the seeing that promise fulfilled. Christians today should live with the same sense of expectancy, waiting to have God break into their lives in a new and dynamic manner.

Those early followers had seen the horror of their Lord crucified. Then they had experienced his resurrected presence with them for over a month. They were convinced by many "infallible proofs" that Jesus was alive (Acts 1:3). In this passage they are enjoying his physical presence for the last time. On the slopes of the Mount of Olives he instructed them to wait for something radically new to happen in their lives.

I. We must wait on God for the Holy Spirit (1:4-5).

Jesus commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for the "promise of the Father." He used this same phrase in Luke's gospel in reference to the Holy Spirit, which would "clothe" them (Luke 24:49). Jesus is, of course, looking forward to the day of Pentecost.

This would not be their first experience with the Holy Spirit (cf., John 20:22) not their last (cf., Acts 4:8, 4:31), but it would be a significant outpouring of the presence of God in their lives and upon the church in particular. Jesus reminded them that as John's baptism had immersed them in water so they would be immersed in the Holy Spirit. In describing what happened at Pentecost, Luke says they were "filled" with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). Being baptized into and being filled with are both metaphorical ways of expressing the reality of being saturated with the presence of God.

no other way. And when we do, we are being more like Christ, which is our ultimate goal.

When it seems to get "too rough," we can reflect upon the absolute truth that God is the ultimate judge of us all (Romans 12:19). Then we can get back to our task of using our opportunities to do good without feeling sorry for ourselves (12:20) and keep on "playing the game of life" by our rules, not their rules (12:21).

A smile is your umbrella in any kind of weather.

Life and Work

Relating to others

By Beverly V. Tinnin, pastor, First, Meridian
Matt. 5:21-48

The proper relationship to God and people is the heart of Biblical revelation. The first four of the ten commandments deal with one's relationship with God while the last six are concerned with how one lives in regard to people. When Jesus summarized the law he pointed to the twin heartbeats of love. God is loved completely and, by the same token, one's neighbor is regarded more dearly than one regards himself.

Jesus spent very little time condemning infractions of outward rules or laws. He knew the Pharisees and society in general would deal with these offenders. His emphasis throughout his ministry was upon right thoughts and attitudes. The cultivation of these resulted in happiness and in a higher and better way of living.

Since the day of Eve, one has been able to trace the steps of a person's fall. It begins with a look or thought, becomes strong imagination, gains the person's consent, and results in the deed. Jesus warns that the place sin begins is with step one—the thought. In the following verses we see his rationale in action.

Murder and anger (vv. 5:21,22)

Jesus reminded his listeners "anyone who murders will be subject to judgement." But Jesus added that murder springs from wrong attitudes.

"Anger" is step one in the "murder process." Unless it is headed off the "angry one" will be dealt with in court (a lower court such as "captain's mast" or justice of the peace's court).

To insult another by hurling the term "raca" or "stupid" at the person is step two in the process. Being more serious a higher court will try this individual. The "council" or Sanhedrin, a body of seventy, will hear his case.

The final step is to feel another is a "fool" and as such has no right to continue to live. This signifies giving consent to his removal and Jesus decrees that such a one will be sent to "Gehenna" or "hell."

Last and adultery (vv. 5:27-29)

No generation ever faced such a barrage of sexually explicit materials from every direction. The attractiveness has been vastly increased while many of the "stops" have been pulled. "Good" people probably have more trouble with the commandment, "thou shalt not commit adultery," than any other hence, Jesus' warning against "lustful attitude." He indicated that illicit desire is as morally wrong as the act. The place the correction must

take place is following "the look." Depersonalization must be avoided at all cost. The object of the look must be viewed as a person with trusts and commitments. The respect shown one's sister, brother, father or mother will call a halt to raging desire that reduces another individual to no more than a "piece of meat."

Eye for an eye versus the love commandment (vv. 5:38-42)

In early days the code that recognized punishment for an offense in proportion to its seriousness was everywhere recognized. In Jesus' day there is no evidence the law was literally enforced. As in our own society, monetary fines were levied as a substitute for corporal punishment.

Rather than seek justice for ourselves Jesus said we should surrender the right of retaliation. In fact going beyond what we are forced to do we should "return good for evil," "turn the other cheek," "go the second mile," etc.

The love command includes one's enemies (vv. 5:43,44).

A stereotype is frequently bandied about "I love him but I don't like him." Jesus makes it clear we are to pray for all and for ourselves. This will help us have a deep-seated, unselfish concern for their welfare. This will result in activity in their behalf. They will be seen as an extension of the Lord himself who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it to me."

Clarke is partner to Steel Valley

Clarke Baptist Association, Grady Crowell, director of missions, is helping to promote simultaneous revivals to be held in Steel Valley Baptist Association, Ohio, April 10-15, 1983.

Crowell said, "We have a partnership ministry with them and give Steel Valley Association \$60 a month."

Pastors who plan to go to Ohio to preach in the revivals April 10-15 are Wilton Bennett, Rolling Creek; Jerry Bishop, Pleasant Hill; Eugene Bradley, Phalti; Thomas Broadhead, First, Sharon (Jones); Herman Clark, Hepzibah; Grady Crowell, director of missions; Jerry Doggett, Center Ridge; Ed Holloman, Corinth (Jasper); Avery Jones, Siloam (Clay); Archie McIntyre, Elim; Albert McMullen, First, Stonewall; Tommy Parker, Northrup Chapel; Gerald Robinson, (music) Center Grove (Lauderdale); and T. E. Williams, East Pleasant Grove.